

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering blanks to a module, the method comprising:

providing a first conveyor capable of travel at a first velocity and a second velocity and capable of acceleration from said first velocity to said second velocity and deceleration from said second velocity to said first velocity;

sequentially dispensing a plurality of blanks onto said first conveyor;

detecting the position of one of said plurality of blanks;

accelerating the first conveyor, with said plurality of blanks thereon, in response to said detecting step to substantially match the velocity of a second conveyor when said one blank is at a preselected position on the first conveyor, said second conveyor traveling at said second velocity;

transferring at least a portion of said one blank from the first conveyor to the second conveyor when said first conveyor is traveling at said second velocity; and

reducing the velocity of the first conveyor, with said plurality of blanks thereon, to the first velocity after a predetermined period of time in response to said detecting step.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the blanks are dispensed onto the first conveyor in an end-to-end relationship.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, including repeating, said detecting accelerating, transferring and reducing steps for the blank immediately adjacent to said one blank.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes detecting the leading edge of said one blank.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, including maintaining said first conveyor substantially at said second velocity between said accelerating and reducing steps

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said detecting step includes detecting by a photodetector.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second conveyor includes an upper belt, a lower belt and a nip point at the entry between said upper and lower belts and wherein transferring the blank includes passing the blank into said nip point, whereby the second conveyor maintains control of the blank after the first conveyor is reduced in velocity.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring blanks in a conveyance mechanism mechanisms, the method comprising:

dispensing a plurality of blanks from a feeder into a first conveyor, the blanks being dispensed into the first conveyor adjacent to one another in the direction of the travel of said first conveyor;

advancing the plurality of blanks by said first conveyor toward a second conveyor at a first velocity, said second conveyor traveling at a second velocity and said second velocity being greater than said first velocity;

detecting the position of a given blank of said plurality of blanks in said first conveyor as said given blank approaches said second conveyor;

accelerating the first conveyor from the first velocity to substantially match the second velocity in response to detecting the position of said given blank;

transferring said given blank from the first conveyor to the second conveyor after said accelerating step; and

decelerating the first conveyor to the first velocity after said accelerating step and in response to detecting the position of said given blank so that said given blank and a subsequent

blank in said first conveyor immediately adjacent to said given blank travel at different velocities after said transferring step; and

repeating said detecting, accelerating, transferring and decelerating steps for each said subsequent blank.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein decelerating the first conveyor occurs when a predetermined period of time has elapsed after said accelerating step.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, including calculating the predetermined period of time with a controller.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the calculating step is based on a length of said given blank, the first velocity and the second velocity.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

entering a blank length into the controller;

entering the first velocity into the controller; and

entering the second velocity into the controller, wherein the controller utilizes the blank length, the first velocity and the second velocity to calculate the predetermined period of time.

14. (Currently Amended) The A method of claim 13, transferring blanks in a conveyance mechanism, the method comprising:

entering a blank length into the controller;

entering a first velocity into the controller; and

entering a second velocity into the controller, wherein the controller utilizes the blank length, the first velocity and the second velocity to calculate a predetermined period of time;
dispensing a plurality of blanks from a feeder into a first conveyor, the blanks being dispensed into the first conveyor adjacent to one another in the direction of the travel of said first conveyor;

advancing the plurality of blanks by said first conveyor toward a second conveyor at a first velocity, said second conveyor traveling at a second velocity and said second velocity being greater than said first velocity;

detecting the position of a given blank of said plurality of blanks in said first conveyor as said given blank approaches said second conveyor;

accelerating the first conveyor from the first velocity to substantially match the second velocity in response to detecting the position of said given blank;

transferring said given blank from the first conveyor to the second conveyor after said accelerating step;

decelerating the first conveyor to the first velocity after said accelerating step and in response to detecting the position of said given blank so that said given blank and a subsequent blank in said first conveyor immediately adjacent to said given blank travel at different velocities after said transferring step; wherein the method includes calculating the predetermined period of time with a controller based on the length of said given blank, the first velocity and the second velocity and wherein decelerating the first conveyor occurs when a predetermined period of time has elapsed after said accelerating step, wherein decelerating the first conveyor occurs when a predetermined period of time has elapsed after said accelerating step and wherein the controller automatically reduces the first velocity if the controller determines that the first conveyor is incapable of accelerating and decelerating within one blank length.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein said second conveyor includes upper and lower belt members and a nip and the transferring step occurs by conveying said given blank into said nip.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)